

**EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES**

**Meeting of April 6, 2011**

Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center  
3300 Briggs Chaney Road  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904

**MEMBERS (ECCAB)**

**Present:** Marva Deskins, Esq. (Chair); David M. Kochanski, Esq. (Vice Chair); Allan Mulligan (Parliamentarian); Thomas J. Aylward; Lucretia Bartley; Tamika S. Bennett; Peter Myo Khin; Leonard E. Newman; Alfreda Payne; Odessa Shannon; Saschane M. Stephenson; Benoy Thomas; Ned B. Williams; Teddy Wu

**Absent:** Anthony Ramirez (Secretary); Sally Colgan; Paul Myers

**STAFF (EMRSC):** Joy Nurmi (Director) and Anjoo Chohda (Sr. Executive Administrative Aide), Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center

**GUESTS:**

Rollin Stanley, Director, Planning Director, Montgomery Planning; Ed Weiler (Broadmore Hills Park); G. Stanley Doore (Resident and former ECCAB member); James Stewart (Branch Manager, Marilyn J. Praisner Library); Mark Doore (Resident); Kristin O' Connor (MNCPPC); Wilmer Gutierrez, (Staff, Councilmember Nancy Navarro's office); Mara Parker (Staff, Councilmember Marc Elrich's office); Richie Bowers (Chief, Department of Fire and Rescue, Montgomery County) ; Delegate Eric G. Luedtke (State Delegate District 14, Montgomery County)

**CITIZEN'S FORUM**

**Chair Marva Deskins** –Welcomed everyone and presided over the meeting. The guests were asked to introduce themselves and share their concerns with the board. The floor was opened for questions.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m.

**Chair Marva Deskins** –Announced presentation by Rollin Stanley, Planning Director, Montgomery County Planning.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Rollin Stanley**, Director, Planning Director, MNCPPC

Thanked the Board for the invitation. Gave a brief introduction about himself and his Department. Gave a presentation on the current zoning codes in the county and shared the proposal by his Department to re-write the codes. Montgomery County has a zoning plan.

Currently the county's zoning ordinances consist of redundant zones, overlapping regulations, extreme zoning, outdated, complex and rigid zones. Stanley proposes rewriting the existing code to simplify and clean up the zones. According to the Planning Department, a comprehensive rewrite was proposed by the County Council in 2007. The last time that took place was 1977.

**121:** The number of zones created for Montgomery County

**0:** The number of jurisdictions with more zones than Montgomery County

The County has more ways to define land use than anyone else. Many zones were added piecemeal to the County's code as the result of specific needs. Some are not needed anymore, according to Stanley.

**14,000:** The number of acres left to build in the county

Stanley suggests the county can do more to optimize the space, with more high-rise, mixed-use zones that will allow the county to build up.

**106:** The number of strip malls in Montgomery County

**\$3 million:** The amount of money per acre a commercial zoned property generates in tax revenue

**\$6.9 million:** The amount of dollars per acre a high-rise, mixed-use zoned property generates in tax revenue

Since the county receives both income taxes and property taxes from residents and people who work in the county, he said it's important to maximize zones so that Montgomery County can collect both types of taxes. Stanley's department is in the beginning stages of the re-write. He reported that a consolidated draft of the new code will be ready for public feedback by late fall 2011. If all stays on schedule, a draft will get to the planning board by early summer 2010 and to the county council by winter 2012.

**Zoning Montgomery** is a website dedicated to the three-year process of reorganizing, revising, and simplifying the county's current zoning ordinance to accommodate the most ideal future development and can be accessed at [www.zoningmontgomery.org](http://www.zoningmontgomery.org)

Q & A session followed.

**Chair Deskins**– Thanked the Planning Department speakers for their presentation.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**[April 6, 2011 -1]** Chair Deskins asked for a review of the minutes of the ECCAB Meeting of March 2, 2011. The motion was moved by David Kochanski; seconded by Teddy Wu and unanimously approved.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

1. Welcomes new Board Members
2. April 13<sup>th</sup> - Board Retreat is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center. Council member Nancy Navarro will give welcoming remarks at the Retreat.
3. May 18<sup>th</sup> - BCC Ethics and Open Meetings Act Training is scheduled from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 pm in the EOB – Lobby Auditorium. Encourages members to attend.
4. April 17<sup>th</sup> - We Green – A series of Energy Seminar hosted by Neeta Datt is scheduled on April 17<sup>th</sup> ; 2:00 -4:00 p.m. at the Marilyn J. Praisner Library.
5. April 10 through April 16<sup>th</sup> - Ride On- Annual food Ride drive begins Sunday, April 10 through Saturday, April 16, 2011. Ride On bus passengers in Montgomery County can help needy families and receive free bus rides by donating canned or nonperishable food during Ride On's annual food drive. A free trip will be provided to riders who donate food from Sunday, April 10 through Saturday, April 16. Food collected through the drive goes to Manna Food Center.
6. May 4<sup>th</sup> ECCAB meeting - State Senators and Delegates from District 14 and District 20 will be joining the meeting to share legislative updates.
7. Other information - please refer to the emailed Director's Report.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

1. Welcomed new board members- Tamika S. Benett and Lucretia Bartley. Asked new members to give a brief introduction. The members introduced themselves.
2. Council Testimony is scheduled on April 7<sup>th</sup> – the final draft and issues will be discussed at New Business.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

### **Councilmember Mark Elrich's office:**

**Mara Parker** announced:

Budget Hearings - April 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Emergency Management and Homeland Security; April 14<sup>th</sup> – Department of Fire and Rescue

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/pdf/action/2011/0406-0412.pdf>

Discussed proposal regarding organizing of Regional Services Center

Public Safety – Department of Police increases staffing in IDA Sector and Silver Spring – proposes to increase Department of Police budget to add sixteen more officers. Police Budget is scheduled for hearing on April 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m.

May 11<sup>th</sup> – Council packets can be reviewed at

[http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/GeneratedAgendaViewer.php?view\\_id=6&event\\_id=9](http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/GeneratedAgendaViewer.php?view_id=6&event_id=9)

**Councilmember Nancy Navarro's office:**

**Wilmer Gutierrez** announced:

Operation of White Oak Recreation Center is scheduled to open on schedule in April 2012.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee: Tom Aylward, Chair**

The committee discussed East County Science Center, Burtonsville.

**Outreach Committee: Alfreda H. Payne, Chair**

The committee is waiting for new members to join the committee.

**Services Committee: Len Newman on behalf of Anthony Ramirez, Chair –**

The committee will resume meeting next month following the board retreat.

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

## **NEW BUSINESS –**

**Chair Deskins-** shared draft with members on Proposed ECCAB Testimony for County Council. Topics include - importance of Police sub-station in east county, White Oak Recreation Center, Consolidation of Regional Services Centers and funding of Burtonsville Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD).

**Len Newman-** spoke on the role played by the BVFD and the budget reductions.

Chair Deskins- asked Chief Bowers to speak with the board.

**Chief Richie Bowers, Department of Fire and Rescue -** BVFD is a combination department of careers, volunteers and department personnel in the County. A total reduction of \$43,000.00 is proposed for the operating budget for BVFD (\$23,000.00 reduction for EMS Supplies, which will be subsumed within the DFRS budget so that BVFD will get the same equipment and supplies, and \$20,000.00 for food for stand-by volunteers.)

**Chair Deskins–** Thanked Fire Chief for the presentation.

**[April 6, 2011 -2]** Motion on the floor to approve proposed Board Council Testimony. The motion was moved by Tom Aylward and was open to member discussion..

Motion carries and the proposed Board Testimony was approved.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS –

**Kristin O’ Connor (MNCPPC)** - shared an update on the East County Burtonsville Charrette / Workshop conducted on March 31<sup>st</sup> at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center. Residents, property owners, and others developed a vision for Burtonsville, discussed what characteristics they like, and came up with some actions necessary to make the commercial area better. Planning staff supplied markers and maps to allow for design ideas to be expressed on maps. Read the results [PDF] reported from each table.

**Ned Williams** – has been accepted to serve on the East County Science Center Advisory Committee based on his interest expressed at the March ECCAB meeting.

## ADJOURNMENT

**[April 6, 2011 -3] Chair Deskins**– made a motion to adjourn the meeting; moved by David Kochanksi and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

*The next meeting of ECCAB is scheduled for May 4, 2011.*

## **Director's Report – April 2011**

### **Welcome New Board Members!!!**

The ECCAB has three new Board Members that have been invited to join us at our April meeting – Paul Meyers of Colesville, Tamika Bennett of White Oak and Lucretia Bartley of the Briggs Chaney area. Welcome!

### **REMINDER - ECCAB Board Retreat**

The ECCAB Retreat is scheduled in lieu of regular Committee Meetings at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at the East County Regional Center in the large conference room. Councilmember Nancy Navarro will give welcoming remarks.

### **IDA Sector Meeting**

Approximately 40 people who attended the March 23<sup>rd</sup> IDA Sector meeting at the White Oak Library learned that overall, crime is trending down in East County. The exception is residential burglaries, which are not declining. The East County Regional Center partnered with the North White Oak Civic Association for the IDA Sector meeting to hear about trends in youth crime and discuss concerns about general crime trends in the White Oak area. Attendees heard from Curtis Zeager, Assistant State's Attorney for Community Prosecution/Juvenile Offenders, Assistant Chief of Police, Wayne Jerman, Third District Commander, Don Johnson and Rodney Barnes, School Resources Officer for Springbrook and Paint Branch High Schools.

### **Ethics and Open Meetings Act Training**

## **The BCC Ethics and Open Meetings Act Training**

**Wednesday, May 18, 2011**

**7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

**Executive Office Building - Lobby Auditorium**

The Offices of the County Executive will be offering **ETHICS AND OPEN MEETINGS ACT TRAINING** for **staff liaisons and members** of all Boards, Committees, and Commissions (BCCs) on **Wednesday evening, May 18, 2011, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**. The training will be presented by the County Attorney's Office. Registration will begin immediately.

**TO REGISTER, INDIVIDUALS SHOULD RESPOND TO**  
**[beth.gochrach@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:beth.gochrach@montgomerycountymd.gov)** **INCLUDE THE WORD “REGISTER” IN THE**  
**SUBJECT LINE AND PROVIDE NAME AND BCC AFFILIATION IN THE MESSAGE.**

Training will cover the County Ethics Law and State Open Meetings Act. BCC members who have not previously attended this or the quasi judicial training, or those who want a refresher course, are encouraged to attend. **Please forward this email to all of your members.**

### **BCC Ethics and Open Meetings Act Training Information**

**Who Should Attend:** Members of All BCCs

**When:** Wednesday evening, May 18, 2011; **7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

**Where: Executive Office Building - Lobby Auditorium,**  
101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD 20850

If you have any questions about the BCC Ethics and Open Meetings Act Training, please contact Beth Gochrach or me at (240) 777-2528. Thank you.

### **Burtonsville Neighborhood Plan**

More than 40 residents, business owners and property owners attended Park & Planning's charette on Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup> to discuss the vision for the business district in Burtonsville. Participants sat in four groups and worked to come up with the "perfect" Burtonsville. Many indicated a vision for mixed use and "urban light" development in the town center. Concerns included: struggling businesses, no destination activities, conflicting traffic turning movements, vehicle and pedestrian safety, lack of pedestrian friendly streets, lack of services, lack of housing in the town center, traffic congestion, lack of green space, lack of signage and access regarding the park & ride ramp. The ultimate outcome of the Burtonsville Neighborhood Plan may be a recommendation to the Council for a master plan amendment to the Fairland Master Plan.

### **Leggett Announces Results of Pepco Work Group Survey**

Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett today announced the results of a County survey of residents and businesses conducted earlier this year that focused on the quality of service and reliability of Pepco's responses to past power outages experienced in the County.

Nearly 12,000 responses were received from the Customer Relations Survey conducted in January and February by the Pepco Work Group appointed by Leggett in October 2010. A total of 10, 895 residents responded, while 654 businesses completed the survey.

Among the findings reported by Pepco customers taking the survey are:

- Almost 95% reported they had experienced at least one outage of more than five hours in the past year. Just over 50% also reported that they had experienced non-major-event-related outages of more than one hour in the past year.



- The economic costs of long outages experienced in the past year can be estimated, based on reports obtained from survey respondents, from \$22.9 to \$114.6 million for residents in Montgomery County and \$21.1 to \$211 million for businesses. Pepco's Montgomery County customers appear to be incurring outage-related costs that are on the same magnitude as Pepco's 2010 earnings of \$139 million.

- 10,430 residential respondents, or 95.7%, experienced one or more outages of longer than five hours in the past year. Of these respondents, almost 65% reported calling Pepco more than twice to check the status of the outage. Only 5% of Pepco's residential customers reported that they did not attempt to call Pepco at all. Of those who experienced long outages, 85.5% incurred costs or other economic losses that they otherwise would not have incurred.

- 609 commercial respondents, or 94.9%, experienced one or more outages of longer than five hours in the past year. Of those who experienced long outages, 83.3% incurred costs or other economic losses that they otherwise would not have incurred. Leggett announced the results of the survey in Annapolis as part of his statement of support for three amendments – included as part of Senate Bill 692 -- that would strengthen House Bill 391.

The amendments would: (1) allow the PSC to impose a penalty up to 2.5% of a company's transmission and distribution revenues if that company fails to meet service quality and reliability standards; (2) strike the Senate Finance Committee amendment that would have delayed the imposition of penalties until 2014; and (3) require the PSC to study decoupling of rates in period of extended outages. To see the entire survey report, visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov) and click on Pepco Work Group Customer Satisfaction Survey results.

### **Montgomery County Roadways to Receive Spring Cleaning**

Starting the week of March 28, Montgomery County's residential roadways will get a spring cleaning with the launch of the annual street sweeping program on the County's 5,000 curb miles of roads.

This joint effort between the Department of Transportation (MCDOT) and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) removes abrasives and other debris left behind after the winter snow season and improves the appearance and safety of County streets. Based on past results, officials expect the effort will help remove more than 3,000 tons of material that could otherwise be washed into County streams. For more information, go to [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311) or call the Customer Service Line by dialing 311 from within the County or 240-777-0311 from outside the County.